

EXAMINERS AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and /or additions by unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Christopher Tanner (Reg. No. 41,518) on May 7, 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 5, 12, 14, 21, 25, 32, 36, 42-43, 47, 53, 54, 58, and 64-66 have been amended.

1. (Currently amended) A method of automatically generating a configuration for a network device, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving a partial configuration for a network device, wherein the partial configuration comprises a plurality of configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements;

parsing the partial configuration to identify the user interface elements;

generating a local user interface page from a user based on the user interface elements;

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receiving one or more configuration parameter values via the user interface page; ~~and~~

substituting the configuration parameter values into the partial configuration to result in creating a complete configuration for the device;

wherein the partial configuration is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to a network service provider prior to shipment of the network device to a user;

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device,

wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value; causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; ~~and~~

associating one of the configuration parameter values with the data variable name `[[.]]`;

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

5. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A method of automatically generating a network device configuration, the method comprising the computer-implemented

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steps of:

reading a configuration template from non-volatile memory of a network device, wherein the configuration template comprises a plurality of configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements, wherein the configuration template is stored in the memory prior to movement of the network device from a vendor or service provider to a user;

parsing the configuration template to identify one or more user interface elements;

generating a local user interface page based on the user interface elements;

receiving one or more configuration parameter values from a user of the network device via the user interface page; ~~and~~

substituting the configuration parameter values into the configuration template in association with the configuration commands to result in creating and storing a complete configuration for the device;

wherein the configuration template is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to a network service provider;

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device, wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value;

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causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; ~~and~~

associating one of the configuration parameter values with the data variable name[.];

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

14. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for automatically generating a configuration for a network device, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

receiving a partial configuration for a network device, wherein the partial configuration comprises a plurality of configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements;

parsing the partial configuration to identify the user interface elements;

generating a local user interface page based on the user interface elements;

receiving one or more configuration parameter values via the user interface page;

substituting the configuration parameter values into the partial

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configuration to result in creating a complete configuration for the device;

wherein the partial configuration is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to a network service provider prior to shipment of the network device to a user[.];

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device, wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value;

causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; and

associating one of the configuration parameter values with the data variable name[.];

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

25. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently amended) An apparatus for automatically generating a configuration for a network device, comprising:

means for computing comprising a communication mechanism for communicating information, and a processor coupled with the communication mechanism for processing information;

means for receiving a partial configuration for a network device, wherein the partial configuration comprises a plurality of configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements;

means for parsing the partial configuration to identify the user interface elements;

means for generating a local user interface page based on the user interface elements;

means for receiving one or more configuration parameter values via the user interface page;

means for substituting the configuration parameter values into the partial configuration to result in creating a complete configuration for the device;

wherein the partial configuration is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to a network service provider prior to shipment of the network device to a user;

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

means for generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device, wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value;

means for causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; and

means for associating one of the configuration parameter values with the

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data variable name.

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

means for determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

36. (Cancelled).

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently amended) An apparatus for automatically generating a configuration for a network device, comprising: a network interface that is coupled to the data network for receiving one or more packet flows therefrom; a processor; one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of: receiving a partial configuration for a network device, wherein the partial configuration comprises a plurality of configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements;

parsing the partial configuration to identify the user interface elements;

generating a local user interface page based on the user interface elements;

receiving one or more configuration parameter values via the user interface page; and

substituting the configuration parameter values into the partial configuration to result in creating a complete configuration for the device;

wherein the partial configuration is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to a network service provider prior to shipment of the network device to a user;

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device, wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value;

causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; and

associating one of the configuration parameter values with the data variable name;

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

47. (Cancelled).

53. (Cancelled).

54. (Currently amended) A method of enabling a network service provider to customize a configuration of a network device, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

creating and storing a partial configuration for a network device within the network device, wherein the partial configuration comprises a plurality of

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configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements;

providing the network device with the partial configuration to an end user, wherein setup of the network device causes the network device to perform the steps of parsing the partial configuration to identify the user interface elements; generating a local user interface page based on the user interface elements; receiving one or more configuration parameter values via the user interface page; and substituting the configuration parameter values into the partial configuration to result in creating a complete configuration for the device;

wherein the partial configuration is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to the network service provider before providing the device to the end user;

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device, wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value;

causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; and

associating one of the configuration parameter values with the data variable name[.];

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

58. (Cancelled).

64. (Cancelled).

65. (Currently amended) A method of enabling a network service provider to customize a configuration of a network device, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

creating a partial configuration for a network device, wherein the partial configuration comprises a plurality of configuration commands, wherein each of one or more of the configuration commands is associated with one of a plurality of user interface elements;

storing the partial configuration in the network device;

providing the network device with the partial configuration to an end user, wherein setup of the network device causes the network device to perform the steps of parsing the partial configuration to identify the user interface elements; generating a local user interface page based on the user interface elements; receiving one or more configuration parameter values via the user interface page; and substituting the configuration parameter values into the partial configuration to result in creating a complete configuration for the device;

receiving a configuration request from the device, based on the device operating according to the complete configuration;

wherein the partial configuration is at least partially customized with one or more configuration parameter values specific to the network service provider

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before providing the device to the end user;

wherein each of the user interface elements comprises a data variable name and a user interface string value;

generating an electronic document that is displayable by an end user computer system that is communicatively coupled to the network device, wherein the electronic document includes the user interface string value;

causing the network device to display the electronic document using the end user computer system; and

associating one of the configuration parameter values with the data variable name ;

wherein each of the user interface elements further comprises a data type value; and

determining whether a data type of the one of the configuration parameter values matches the data type value.

66. (Cancelled).

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:
- Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-13, 15-18, 21-24, 27-30, 32-35, 37-41, 43-46, 48-51, 54-57, 59-62 and 65 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious a method, apparatus and computer readable storage medium for automatically generating a configuration for a network device and for minimizing the installation complexity of network devices prior to installation by allowing network service providers to at least partially pre-configure (i.e., customize) the network devices prior to distribution and allowing the receiving users to locally complete the device's configurations once connected to the service provider's network as set forth in the specification and recited in the independent claims.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 571-272-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

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supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Examiner, Art Unit 2155
May 09, 2008

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2155